

## **EXHIBIT 17**

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

PUBLIC SESSION

Alexandria, Virginia

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Anderson Court Reporting  
706 Duke Street, Suite 100  
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1 PARTICIPANTS:  
2 KEVIN RIVETTE  
3 ROBERT BUDENS  
4 CATHY FAINT  
5 MAXIMILIAN GRANT  
6 CARL GULBRANDSEN  
7 DEAN KAMEN  
8 JOHN LOVE  
9 GERALD MOSSINGHOFF  
10 LISA NORTON  
11 DOUGLAS PATTON  
12 ANDREA RYAN  
13 DAVID WESTERGARD  
14 JON DUDAS  
15 JOHN DOLL  
16 BARRY HUDSON  
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (2:40 p.m.)

3 CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: Welcome,  
4 everybody here. Since it's a small group,  
5 could we go around and kind of state who's  
6 here? Can we start on this side?

7 MR. WALSH: Hi, my name is Chris  
8 Walsh. I'm an attorney here in Washington  
9 with Stern Kessler.

10 MR. KEY: Hi, my name is Stephen  
11 Key, and I'm with Searching.

12 MR. NOY: I'm Steve Noy with AIPLA.

13 MR. KAZENSKE: Kaz Kazenske,  
14 Microsoft.

15 MS. ASAKI: I'm Yoko Asaki,  
16 Washington Core.

17 MR. BARRETT: I'm Glen Barrett,  
18 Exxon Mobil.

19 CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: Over on that  
20 side?

21 MR. RILEY: I'm Ron Riley. I'm the  
22 president of the Professional Inventors

1       Alliance, and the executive director of  
2       Inventor Ed.

3                   CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: Perfect.

4                   MR. HAJEC: I'm Don Hajec. I'm a  
5       group director in TC 3600.

6                   MR. STERN: I'm Ron Stern, and I  
7       help out with POPA.

8                   CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: Good.

9                   MR. MORSE: Greg Morse, SPE on  
10      detail with John Doll's office.

11                  MR. JOHNSON: Bob Johnson. OCIO,  
12      PTO.

13                  Ms. Alston: Donnetta Alston Office  
14      Manager, Commissioner for Patents.

15                  MS. AUSTIN: Chaunte Austin, Staff  
16      Assistant, Office of the Under Secretary  
17      and Director.

18                  MR. SEWELL: Al Sewell, Acting  
19      Director (off mike).

20                  OPENING REMARKS

21                  CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: Perfect. So,  
22      what I'd like to do now is start going

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1       through -- John, if you wouldn't mind, some  
2       strategic overview. Or we can go with the  
3       patent operations -- whichever one you feel  
4       like. Then we'll kind of go through a recap  
5       of what we've done today.

6                   COMMISSIONER DOLL: Why don't we do  
7       operations first, because I think that will  
8       set the stage on where we were last year,  
9       where we'd like to go this year. And then  
10      I'll talk about where we want to go two,  
11      three five years from now.

12                  CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: Before we start  
13       that, is there anyone here that wants to make  
14       a statement, wants to say anything? Raise  
15       your hand now or forever hold your peace. Is  
16       there anybody that came in?

17                  COMMISSIONER DOLL: Darn -- we're  
18       actually going to have to talk the whole  
19       time.

20                  CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: Okay. My name's  
21       Kevin Rivette, if anybody wanted to know.  
22       Carl, are you still there on the phone?

1 (No response)

2 CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: I guess not.

3 COMMISSIONER DOLL: He went with

4 Dean.

5 CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: That's what I'm  
6 wondering. So we lost two members at the  
7 break. So why don't we start in.

8 PATENT OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

9 MR. LOVE: My name is John Love.

10 But for the next 40 minutes, if you can  
11 imagine me being Peggy Focarino, that would  
12 help.

13 (Laughter)

14 CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: John -- let's  
15 back that one up. Peggy's not able to be  
16 here today, so I'm going to present to you  
17 some of the facts and figures and goals, and  
18 give you an idea of where we are in terms of  
19 pendency, and number of examiners, and so  
20 forth -- for this year, or if you want to go  
21 to next year -- in our operations. There  
22 should be a copy of the PowerPoint that was

1 handed out as part of your packet. And I  
2 think we have paper copies for the public  
3 session. I'll just go through it very  
4 quickly. If you have questions, please  
5 interrupt, and we can talk about it. And  
6 I'll try not to use too many acronyms.

7 At the end of the year -- and we've  
8 had a lot of talk about this -- the backlog  
9 of applications that are awaiting first  
10 action -- that means they have not had a  
11 first office action on the merits yet, did  
12 surpass the 700,000 number, hence the concern  
13 about the backlog and where we are with that.  
14 With the hiring of 1,200 examiners, we are up  
15 to 4,883 patent examiners; we have 397  
16 supervisors -- and these include what we call  
17 "SPEs" -- special program examiners -- and  
18 quality assurance examiners. We have 29  
19 Patent Academy trainers. That's in the new  
20 training academy; and 22 TC group directors.

21 CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: How large is  
22 that academy? How many people are we running

1 through it?

2 MR. LOVE: This past year I think  
3 we ran about half of our hires through, with  
4 about 600.

5 CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: About 600? And  
6 where is it located?

7 MR. LOVE: Throughout the campus.  
8 We've had to basically -- really find space  
9 in all areas. And actually we went out and  
10 got some new space, too, that's adjacent to  
11 the campus. Okay -- so let's in the  
12 operations, we're going to talk about the  
13 2006 filings, the 2006 goals and results, and  
14 then some of the initiatives that we  
15 undertook in 2006.

16 (Slide)

17 CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: What's it? UPR  
18 filings? That's utility --

19 MR. LOVE: Plant and reissue  
20 filings. You can see we've had a steady  
21 increase. And in '06 -- a rough number, but  
22 pretty accurate -- is 417,000 filings. And

1 since what we've put out was in the 300,000  
2 area, so you can see again that we're not  
3 able to keep up with what's coming in the  
4 door each year, let alone get to the backlog  
5 from the previous year. (Slide.) And the  
6 filing growth rate was over 8 percent for  
7 this past year.

8 CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: What was it?

9 COMMISSIONER DOLL: 8.7.

10 MR. LOVE: 8.7.

11 MR. MORSE: Preliminary 8.7. I  
12 think there's another 2,000 filings. I think  
13 it's up around --

14 MR. LOVE: How many precincts have  
15 reported in?

16 (Laughter)

17 MR. LOVE: 9 percent of the --

18 CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: Are we pretty  
19 close to 9? Or closer to --

20 MR. MORSE: My best guess is 9.1.

21 (Slide.)

22 MR. LOVE: The next slide shows you

1       the continuation filing rates. The top graph  
2       there is the continuations, which includes  
3       straight continuations, continuing  
4       prosecutions applications which are phased  
5       out; requests for continued examinations; and  
6       divisionals.

7                     CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: Why are we  
8       seeing such an increase, John?

9                     MR. LOVE: Well, I think --

10                                     (Laughs.)

11                     CHAIRMAN RIVETTE: No, I'm serious.

12                     MR. LOVE: Well, there's a lot of  
13       reasons. We think that people are -- one of  
14       the things that the rules package was  
15       addressing was the increase in the number of  
16       continuations being filed. And there's  
17       various reasons and strategies why our users  
18       are doing that. Some of the reasons that are  
19       out there is that applicants want to keep the  
20       case pending longer so that they have more  
21       options, so that they can understand where  
22       they are in terms of what the real embodiment